## London Lawyer Has a Million-Dollar "Freak" Garden

SIR FRANK CRISP Spends Huge Sums on Making Garden That Has No Equal-Strange Whims in Stone and Landscape-Huge Mansion That Makes Vast Puzzle Picture - Ponds That Delude the Eve-Sir Frank's Guests Walk Through Water Without Getting Wet.

Special Correspondence of The Star. LONDON, March 11, 1909.



dollars on a garden

earth can hold a candle.

been preparing this 200-acre plot for jumped," S'r Frank explains, with laugh- three feet above the other, but, as a matnearly thirty years, and now curiosity stones came to be in their particular direct communication—and consequently scekers and tourists are flocking to it in place and how the markings of the feet at the same level. such numbers that he has to try to keep are so perfectly plain is explained when Close to the ponds is a cave modeled down the number of visitors by charging Sir Frank calmly informs you that he after the famous "Blue Grotto" of Capri.

frented with several signs placed care- an invention of the same fertile brain.

drive. They bear the puzzling legend, "Don't keep off the grass." This mandate mixes most of the visitors up from the start, and large numbers go back to the lodgekeeper to ask whether the grass may be walked upon or not. Sir Frank used to have a sign reading "The grass may be walked upon," but he substituted the present one in order to study "psychological effects." The confusion of the visitors affords him a fund of amuse-This, however, is only the beginning of the surprises. The house, the grounds, the walks are arranged purposely to delude, and when you have spent an afternoon at Friar Park, with its many allusions, delusions and entanglements, you come out into the world again shorn of much of your confidence in the impressions which your ordinary tive senses convey. For instance, on the left-hand side of

the winding carriage way which leads up to the great palace-like mansion is a series of three or four ponds. One of your first "astonishers" is to see several PENDING a million well dressed ladies, accompanied perhaps by a couple of children or a gentleman apparently walking complacently through has been the unique one of the ponds, waist deep in the hobby of Sir Frank water. You are at first inclined to think Crisp, one of Eng- the people either water-tight or else lay figures worked by some kind of mechanism, but this latter idea is soon dispelled not by seeing them emerge from the pond on often that members the other side perfectly dry, with no of the legal profes- evidence of their partial immersion. The head gardener explains to you that the people are only walking over a ledge of tensive cultivation rocks placed behind one of the ponds in save in the raising such a manner that it gives the appearof fine crops of ance of people walking through the water as they cross over

Even the rocks themselves, which form ent. His legal practice alone has not sat- the stepping-stones for this curious stage of his soul, and his effect, present unique features. They show exuberant fancy has overflowed into build- the footprints of some antediluvian monster, together with those of a man, a beside which no other plot woman and some children. The various footprints suggest a prehistoric tragedy. ter. The mystery of how these special ter of fact, both bodies of water are in called "pulhamite" and placed there pur- fects, and those who have seen the orig-As you enter the grounds you are con- posely. The prehistoric tragedy is also inal blue cave agree that Sir Frank's is a

close imitation.

that he is almost prepared for anything.

find only six, whereas Sir Frank soon

proves to you that there are really seven



mansion is obtained. The sheet of water and the water being perfectly still as a rule one is puzzled to decide, at first glance, whether he is looking at a mirror of the house in the lake or its projected mirage in the sky. So many curious surprises have already confronted the visitor The outside of Sir Frank Crisp's house is, perhaps, one of the most curious in the world. Every inch of the palace-like structure is carved with designs representing friars of every description-the friar, by the way, being the motif of the whole place. Friars "from grave to gay, where, and, in addition to these, there are mottoes, puzzles and inscriptionsthe exterior of the house being, as it were, a veritable manuscript in stone. On the eastern front, which faces the beautiful terrace overlooking the grounds, Sir Frank has placed a number of puzzles or designs with double meanings. For instance, there is a match which illustrates "The Maiden's Prayer," while a box of bear's grease satirizes Byron's "'Tis Greece, But Living Greece No More." On the corner of the building is a design showing some cubes. If

ing you had taken him up.

building are greatly exceeded by other surprises in much bigger stones in the marvelous "rockery" close at hand. Sir

Frank has had built, just to the right

imitation of the Swiss Matterhorn. It

is a faithful representation of that

famous peak. More than 7,000 tons of

massive rocks were brought from York-

shire to form it, and Sir Frank had it

remodeled four times before it satisfied

his mansion, a veritable mountain, in

nim. Hundreds of quarrymen worked night and day shifting the rocks about until they were all in the exact places he assigned them. Inside the mountain are some wonderful grottoes, built to represent ice caves. Streams representing mountain torrents dash down from these rocks. The water is pumped up to the top by special machinery, built at enormous cost. Everything is so wonderfully concealed that one cannot but imagine all he sees to be perfectly natural. And yet, at a turn of the hand, Sir Frank-as reigning deity-can cause the "mountain torrents" to dry up. So much attention has been paid to detail in this bit of "fake" Switzerland that if you look through a pair of opera glasses from a certain seat in the rockery you can see tiny chamois on the heights. They cannot be seen by the naked eye. These tiny animals were

"to scale," and are just the size

some distance off through a glass.

alayas and other places. Gardeners come for many years head of the firm. from all over the world to inspect Sir "When Crisp was sixteen," Morris said

Frank's wonderful "rockery." "his grandfather died and his uncle came But the plants in the rockery do not to me and asked me if we would take him compare with those which he has in his as an articled clerk. I asked what sort many of the rarest plants in the world, cat because he always falls on his feet." give Webster's unabridged apoplexy. Many proved most assiduous to his duties, and and to see them busy at meal times is tion at the London University. Knowing Prof. Darwin's theory of the "conscious-ness of flowers" with every chance of he could not hope to get a degree from coming to the conclusion that plants London without great proficiency and hand Quite a number of the plants and flowers ever, and we were all astonished when he the Crisp collection have "faces" took a first-class degree in all subjects." which greatly resemble those of human. Another of his associates declares that beings. Sir Frank takes delight in point- the old legal maxim that the first step ing out these weirdnesses, and listening in a law suit was to get something on to the astonishment of his guests. Inside the Crisp mansion the idea of the to "Get Frank Crisp."

lines, one appearing considerably longer queer things they see, and these sayings ceives an allowance of one month's pay than the other. Sir Frank promptly of- of the American cousins have in many for every year she has served in the post fers to bet you they are the same length. instances been incorporated in an elabo- office. They really are not, but by this time rate catalogue which Sir Frank has just Sir Frank promptly announced that in your sense of proportion has been so published.

and so you have the vain regret of wish- cost has not been under \$2.500,000, the one case and \$400 in another. gardens alone costing a million without

personal hobby of one of the busiest men Inside the ice caves-which are marvels in England, for Sir Frank Crisp has one of imitation- Sir Frank has placed an of the largest legal practices in the world enormous crane. If you hold a glass of His specialty is commercial law, and he is water up to the beak of this bird the a familiar figure at most of the great water disappears. Few visitors under- company meetings in the city. He was stand how this is done, but the secret knighted a year ago, and it is a safe lies in the fact that one of the "moun- statement that no honor conferred by the tain torrents" flows just under the crane's king was ever more popular among the

feet, and this forms a sort of syphon business men of London than this. which sucks the water out of the glass Sir Frank is head of the great law firm of Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Co. His con-All the flowers that grow on the Swiss nection with it began when he was six-Alps are to be found on the Henley Mat-terhorn, together with rare plants from there is the subject of a well known such cold districts as the highest Him- story by the late John Morris, who was

twenty-five separate conservatories, oc- of a young fellow he was, and his uncle these hothouses, which are heated by boy that it was difficult to describe him. the most modern methods, are gathered 'But,' he said, 'at home we call him the some of which have names that would "That was quite enough for me. He these have truly remarkable attri- one day he came to me and asked for butes. There are whole families of "flesh- two or three days' leave of absence, saeating" and "insect-trapping" varieties, ing that he was going up for his examinahighly entertaining. Here one may study that he must have had little time for think, eat, sleep and perhaps play whist. study. He seemed quite confident, how-

account of costs has now been changed friar is carried out with the same degree. Sir Frank is one of the most popular of persistency as on the exterior. Even residents of Henley, and his popularity is the electric light bulbs have friars' noses, explained by incidents like the following: which are turned up when the lights are He received a great many telegrams at on; down when they are off. An im- his country house and when he was mense hallway, giving one the impression knighted he declared that he owed much of the interior of a cathedral, is carved in of his success to the efficiency of the

your sense of proportion has been so published.

mixed up that you naturally refuse to Considering the immense amount of every Henley woman telegraphist who bet with Sir Frank. He then shows you work which Sir Frank has had done on married, and since then he has carried that you would have won "hands down," his grounds, house and conservatories, the out his promise to the extent of \$225 in (Copyright, 1909, by Curtis Brown.)

Friar Park—the "Manuscript in Stone."

Crisp's Way of Duplicating Mansion.

# WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE CAMAL?



The Bay from the Office of the American Consulate

of opinion.

M AIN Feature of Lock-Level Canal is Large Lake 110 Miles in Extent-Differences of Opinions Among Engineers - Danger That Canal Might Prove in Case of Invasion-The Duty of Congress-Will the Commerce Warrant the Cost?



N the 21st day of

scrape off the covering, or peel it off, as ene might a pie crust, and presto-a

been more satisfactory but for the fare that Mr. Taft announced his intention of investigating affairs on the spot, and the President appointed a commission of engineers to accompany him.

More significant still was the declaration of the President, echoed by Mr. Taft, to the effect that, in case conditions seemed to warrant it, a change would be made to the sea-level plan. Considering that these two officials were responsible for Congress having adopted the report of the minority of the board of consulting engineers in favor of a lock-level canal. their utterances looked very much like a preparation of the public for a change

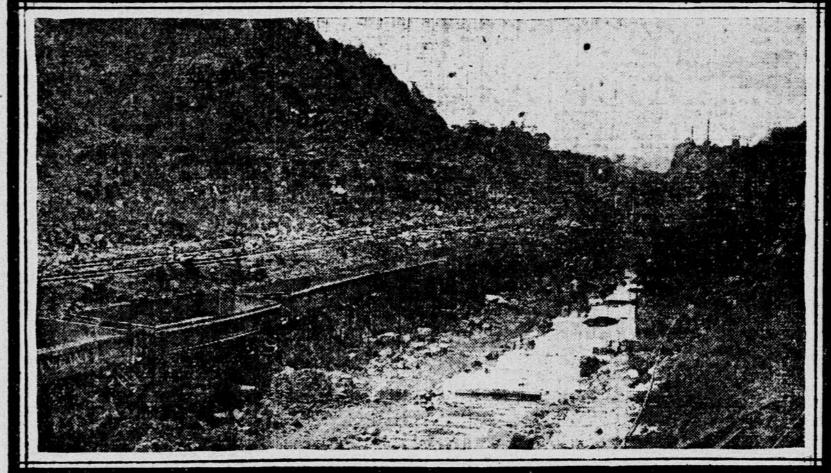
It is a disquieting thought that since portion of the rock the French undertook the canal project. at the up- thirty years ago, practically all the leadstream end of the ing engineers of the world have been

rendy-made waterway at sea level or The ideal waterway would be a strait, those at Panama. The earthquake hazard the Pacific ocean. The total length of the chant mar ne, to begin with, and unless lower. As a matter of fact, the trouble which vessels could enter directly from was also advanced as an argument channel, which extends several miles into we remedy that defect before 1915 we evenly all surface water, avoiding the evenly all surface water, avoiding the many persons' minds horrible. character, nor such as would raise appear to be a very strong one. Of this only one-seventh is less than 300 ropean countries, with little advantage freely, pass one another and turn about. It is true that a comparatively slight shock feet in width, while more than two-to ourselves. Then, we have no foothold our washouts.

The ocean at either end, is nearly 30 miles. Shall open a canal for the benefit of Eucharacter, with little advantage formation of little runs which might pro-to ourselves, with little advantage formation of little runs which might pro-to ourselves. Then, we have no foothold our washouts.

Such a waterway is entirely out of the might derange the locks and obstruct thirds of it is 500 feet wide or over.

Enrich the soil with a liberal supply of by one can driver to another at a function. The commission gave out an emphasic question. Even though it were possible navigation for a while, but a violent constatement to this effect, which was rein- to construct it, the cost would be so great vulsion would be apt to work greater de- the minority of the board of consulting find ourselves shut out. Great Britain and forced by a similar utterance of the chief as to render it a heavily losing invest- struction upon the canal on sea-level engineers for their belief that a lock ca- Germany have been making extra efforts where the soil is lacking in humus; other- from yer box. The corpse's brother wants



View Along the Canal



Bolivar Ave Colors



A Street Scene in Panama

imme- posed of international authorities of the and, failing regulating works, the tide quake. diately started a experts have made examinations of the tion during a large proportion of each wide discussion of ground and the plans and have expressed day. The most liberal plan for a seather vexed question their opinions. The results, if collected, level canal contemplates no more than the vexed question their opinions. The results, if collected, level canal contemplates no more than of the safety of the would fill several good-sized volumes with from 150 to 200 feet of bottom width, and which will be formed by shutting in the large proportion of calculations of the day of the will be formed by shutting in the large proportion of calculations and have expressed day. The most liberal plan for a seather cost. 3.

The main feature of the lock-level plan large ships or a large traffic. 4. Materially less time required for construction. 5. the most conflicting conclusions. The trip it is admitted that this would cost twice which will be formed by shutting in the Materially less cost. structure on which the entire lock-level of another body of especially appointed as much as the proposed lock-level water- Chagres valley by the Gatun dam and was greatly exaggerated by the press, tion whether we are at all sure of our foreign members of the board were unangle one of the newspapers going so far as to declare that the discovery has been made the discovery has been made to grass plotte good results. Use the streams to grass plots which have been established as few years, and thin portions plenty of seed and nothing but pure seed. It is to be hoped that the question of lished a few years, and thin portions plenty of seed and nothing but pure seed. It is to be hoped that the question of lished a few years, and thin portions plenty of seed and nothing but pure seed. It is to be hoped that the question of lished a few years, and thin portions plenty of seed and nothing but pure seed. Summit level of the canal. At the plan will be finally laid to rest by Constitution of the canal that the control of the canal that the control of the canal that the canal declare that the discovery has been made tify ourselves in a course which is con- this may be explained by the fact that in the sown in the fall for a new lawn watch trary to the weight of the best technical Europe the Suez canal is the standard of Atlantic end of it a broad channel gress in its extra session, and that the sown in the fall for a new lawn watch of an enormous lake underlying the Canal advice that has been given to us. If the excellence, Furthermore, very large locks about three miles in length will lead into Zone. This unfortunately was not true, Gatun dam site is as safe as the commis- are unknown in the practice of European the ocean. The lake will afford open any serious setbacks. But the mere build- places where the first seeding fails to Zone. This unfortunately was not true, Gatun dam site is as safe as the commis- are unknown in the practice of European the ocean. The lake will afford open any serious sections to be and no new compliments distruction of the huge structures contemposed a simple solution to the problem. The lake will afford open any serious sections to be and no new compliments distruct of the huge structures contemposed a simple solution to the problem. The lake will afford open any serious sections to be and no new compliments distruct of the huge structures contemposed serious in a cations have arisen, then the arguments distruct of the huge structures contemposed now of the waterway. The Culebra cut will be taken. Prepare the ground as soon way to kill, clean and cook a possum. With a large subterranean lake available, adopt the lock-level plan are as potent are no such locks as those proposed now of the waterway. The Culebra cut will be canal when it is finished? If it were to as it can be worked. Grade it, smoothing in the United States, the engineers betraversed by a channel 200 feet in width, be opened tomorrow, it would be almost as it can be worked. Grade it, smoothing "This rich meat," Mr. Fischer conlieve that the experience of the large and the remaining distance will be main- useless to us. At least, it would be of over rough surfaces, making proper level cluded, "would be as popular as crab, locks at the Soo and the Welland canals by occupied by a lake five miles across, less service to America than to any other spaces and gentle slopes. If possible the but for something repulsive about it, filling a depression between the divide and commercial nation. We have no mer- lawn should slope away from the house. What the repulsive quality is I can't tell, men; for all time. As a matter of fact, than that at the eighty-five-foot eleva- nal is the better one for the United States to extend and strengthen their spheres of wise bone meal or other good fertilizer is us to come inside and have a drink with

Gatun dam sank the scheme. Our predecessors had their of Panama is practicable without locks, connection with the former there must be pacity for traffic than afforded by the narabout twenty feet, comite technique and we our board of The difference between high water in one a number of dams, levees, sluices and row waterway proposed by the board. 2. News of this occonsulting engineers, both bodies com- and the other ocean is twenty-two feet, other works liable to damage by earth- Greater safety for ships and less danger of interruption to traffic by reason of the CARING FOR LAWNS wider and deeper channels which the lock canal makes possible at smaller cost. 3

emaincer. These assurances would have however, no canal through the Isthmus tion. It must be remembered that in to construct are as follows: 1. Greater ca- commercial influence in the east since we useful. The ground should be plowed him.



National Theater Decorated in Honor of Taft

ma canal and their merchants wonder at As a strategic agency it will be of little the supine indifference of the American account. It will enable us in time of manufacturer. It will not do for our peo- peace to move our vessels expeditiously ple to take the attitude that they will from one side of the continent to the go after those markets when the way is other, but in case of war it may be more open. While the oriental trade is a detrimental than useful. To fortify the highly profitable and desirable one, it is a canal is quite out of the question, or even difficult one to establish.

than our shippers realize. preciable degree of success.

Unless we can make the canal a paying cut through the isthmus. undertaking from the commercial point

undertook the construction of the Pana- of view it had better have been left alone. to guard it effectually. A stick of dyna-Asiatics are extremely conservative and mite in the hands of a Japanese Hobson, influenced by customs and prejudices of say, would be sufficient to wreck the which we know nothing. In order to do locks at Gatun and put the entire waterbusiness with them it is necessary to way out of commission. Its neutrality study their requirements and inclinations will not be observed by a determined beland to gain their confidence. This takes ligerent. In case of war the power first time and patience-much more of both on the spot or having the strongest navy ' American will seize and hold the canal. manufacturers who hope to sell goods in fair with Russia Japan showed an en-Asia after the opening of the Panama terprising appreciation of the value of a canal must set about preparing the coup de guerre. Should she design hostinground now, if they are to enjoy any ap- ties upon the United States she would, before declaring war, prepare for a dash to the Panama canal, and if our fleet happened to be elsewhere we might be

TN the early spring is the best time to to grass plots which have been estab. and blue grass produce good results. Use

or spaded not less than eight inches deep, all stones and similar material removed, AND MAKING NEW ONES smoothed. Then it is ready for seeding. Use a good lawn mixture. Four parts Kentucky blue grass with one part while clover, sown not less than five bushels to make a new lawn and to repair an the acre, is good. Red top instead of old one. Fertilizer should be applied the blue grass or equal parts of red top

in the markets of the orient, and unless Enrich the soil with a liberal supply of by one cab driver to another at a funeral